IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Alistair Dixon, et al.

EXAMINER:

SERIAL NO. : 10/031180

ART UNIT

FILED

: January 16, 2002

PAPER NO

FOR

: METHOD FOR TREATING CHRONIC PAIN USING MEK INHIBITORS

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents **Box PCT** Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

CLEAN COPY – PLEASE ENTER

Please add the following new paragraph on page 1, after the title and before line 5:

This application is a 371 application of PCT/US00/18347 filed July 5, 2000, which claims the benefit of priority to United States provisional application Serial No. 60/144,292 filed July 16, 1999.